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Service). Different MBMS (Multimedia Broadcast/Multicast Service) services are usually provided as separate data streams by the core network.

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WO 02/19741 A2 discloses a communication system in which an IP multicast is sent to a plurality of devices in an IP network. In order to ensure that, on the network side, there is information about which end devices wish to receive which IP multicast, an "end device membership query" is periodically sent to the end devices from the network side. Upon receipt of a membership query, an end device sends a membership report as a reply to a local router and, in said membership report, identifies those multicast groups which this end device wishes to receive.

3GPP (3rd Generation Partnership Project) TS 22.146 V5.2.0 Release 5 describes the requirements which must be supported by a 3GPP system (UTRAN [Universal Terrestrial Radio Access Network] and GERAN [GSM EDGE Radio Access Network]), in order to provide broadcast and multicast services (EDGE: Enhanced Data rates for GSM Evolution).

Before the items of payload information are made available as a service to a plurality of subscribers, a notification takes place in relation to the subscriber stations of those subscribers who want to use the service, before the actual transmission of the items of payload information of the service. This notification of the subscriber stations is necessary so that the receivers can be configured. Depending on the mode of the subscriber stations (e.g. "connected mode" or "idle mode"), they are notified by means of a "notification" or "paging", for example. Group-specific mechanisms are normally used for notification, wherein a plurality of subscriber stations are addressed simultaneously.

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The transmission of items of broadcast/multicast information as services should take place advantageously. In particular, any avoidable utilization of radio resources should be avoided whenever possible.

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The invention therefore addresses the problem of setting forth a method and a radio communication system of the type cited at the beginning, which satisfy these specifications.

- 10 The problem is solved by the features in Claim 1 for the method and by the features in Claim 11 for the radio communication system.

Advantageous configurations and developments are subject matter
15 of the dependent claims.

In accordance with the invention, the notification to the subscriber stations of the subscribers includes in at least some cases a request for a reply, and the transmission of the
20 payload information takes place in at least some cases following receipt of the reply.